



City of Seattle

Mayor Jenny A. Durkan

January 3, 2019

Honorable Bruce A. Harrell, President
Seattle City Council
City Hall, 2nd Floor
Seattle, WA 98199

Dear Council President Harrell:

I am pleased to transmit the attached LID formation legislative package. This package includes:

- A Council Bill for the Formation of the Waterfront Local Improvement District ("LID"), a \$160 million property tax assessment which will complete funding for the Waterfront Seattle Program
- A Council Bill regarding the funding, operations and management of the Central Waterfront, which commits Friends of Waterfront Seattle, a non-profit organization, to raise \$110 million in private philanthropy and defines management responsibilities and funding for new parks and public spaces created on the Central Waterfront
- A Council Bill authorizing the City to enter into a Property Waiver Agreement with property owners representing at least 51% of the proposed LID assessment, to forgo protests of the LID in exchange for various assurances on the total LID assessment amount, that the City will not pursue supplemental LID assessments, and on the City's future management of the new waterfront.

The Waterfront Local Improvement District (LID) has been central to the Waterfront Seattle funding plan since 2012, when City Council endorsed the Waterfront Seattle Strategic Plan and subsequently established the Waterfront Program in the City's Capital Improvement Plan. Since then, we have advanced the proposed LID as a fair and reasonable tool to ensure downtown property owners who benefit from the new parks and open spaces contribute to a portion of the cost of their construction. The LID will leverage nearly \$400 million in City and State investments in basic infrastructure and another \$110 million of private philanthropy committed to the park improvements. By leveraging City, State, LID and philanthropic funds together, we are able to deliver a scale of public improvement on our Central Waterfront that would not otherwise be possible.

These bills, if approved, provide a mutually-reinforcing framework that completes funding of the new waterfront and puts in place a high-quality operations and maintenance approach that will help ensure Seattle's new waterfront is clean, accessible and well-used by Seattleites from all walks of life.

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Thank you for your consideration of these ordinances. If you have any questions, please contact Marshall Foster, Director of the Office of the Waterfront and Civic Projects, at (206) 684-8413.

Sincerely,



Jenny A. Durkan
Mayor of Seattle

cc: Honorable Members of the Seattle City Council